

Are Genetically Modified Foods Safe?

NOVA Activity | Genetically Modified Foods

Foods resulting from genetically modified plants have already been introduced into the food supply in some countries, including the United States and those in Europe. But not everyone thinks these foods are safe. You've been appointed to research and report to a special Food and Drug Administration board about these foods. Find out all you can and then decided for yourself: Are genetically modified foods safe?

Procedure

Create a table like the one below on a separate sheet of paper.

- ① Circle whether your group is researching the arguments FOR or AGAINST the use of genetically modified foods.
- ② Use additional resources to find out more information about these foods.
- ③ Consider the following as you do your research:
 - all the arguments for or against the use of genetically modified foods.
 - the potential risks and benefits of genetically modified foods.
 - what plants or foods have been allowed or banned in which countries, and why.
 - how these foods are different, and how they are the same, as other products currently being sold.
 - whether foods should be allowed if they are labeled, and why.
 - whether some foods should be allowed but not others, and why.

Names of group members:

Our group is arguing FOR/AGAINST the use of genetically modified foods.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3:

Questions

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- ① What foods have been allowed or banned in which countries? Why?
- ② Why should foods be allowed if they are labeled? Should labeling be mandatory or voluntary?
- ③ Should some foods be allowed but not others? If so, which ones and why?

